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**FIVE NEW YORK DMV EMPLOYEES, EIGHT OTHERS CHARGED
WITH SELLING FAKE LICENSES, PERMITS, AND ID CARDS**

DAVID N. KELLEY, the United States Attorney for the Southern District of New York, PASQUALE D'AMURO, the Assistant Director in Charge of the New York Office of the FBI, RAYMOND W. KELLY, the Commissioner of the New York City Police Department, and JILL KONVISER-LEVINE, the State Inspector General, New York State Office of the Inspector General, announced that 13 people, including 5 employees of the New York State Department of Motor Vehicles ("DMV"), were charged in a federal criminal Complaint with selling fraudulently obtained New York State Identification

Cards, Learner's Permits, and Driver's Licenses from three different DMV offices in Manhattan and White Plains.

Eight of the 13, including the 5 DMV employees, were arrested earlier today. Five other defendants are fugitives. The arrests and charges were the culmination of a seven-month undercover probe into identity theft, including the investigation of those employees at the DMV offices located at 159 East 125th Street ("the 125th Street DMV") and 11 Greenwich Street (the "Greenwich Street DMV"), both in Manhattan, and the DMV office at 200 Hamilton Avenue in White Plains, New York (the "White Plains DMV").

According to the three-count Complaint, which was unsealed today, the DMV employees - FELICIA SMALLS, DARRELL FORDHAM, TERRY KEYS, QUICHA WILLIAMS KINLOCK and SYREETA EDWARDS - played a vital role in this scheme to provide falsely issued authentic New York State Identification Cards, Learner's Permits, and Driver's Licenses to people using fictitious names and stolen identification information.

Generally, as set forth in the Complaint, the scheme involved document brokers taking their clients to one of these three DMV offices, providing their customers with fraudulent birth certificates and Social Security numbers, and then directing them to one of their DMV co-conspirators, who would then process the customers' applications for non-driver

Identification Cards, Learner's Permits, and Driver's Licenses. When dealing with the customers of the document brokers, the DMV employees would not conduct the mandatory identification checks which they were otherwise required to do, it was alleged.

The Complaint alleges that FELICIA SMALLS, DARRELL FORDHAM, and TERRY KEYS, all employees of the 125th Street DMV, knowingly processed and approved applications for New York State Identification Cards, Learner's Permits and Driver's Licenses bearing fictitious names on behalf of various individuals. These individuals were allegedly brought to SMALLS, FORDHAM and KEYS by EDWARD MENDEZ, a/k/a "Eddie Gomez," a/k/a "Eric Gomez," a/k/a "Eddie License," and CARLOS POLONCO, who acted as the brokers arranging the illegal transactions in exchange for money, usually approximately \$3,000 to \$4,000 for each Identification Card. According to the Complaint, the brokers would provide the applicants with a symbol or code to signal to their DMV employee-cohorts to process the application without verifying the applicant's true identity.

For example, on several occasions, MENDEZ allegedly provided his clients, including two undercover NYPD detectives, with a key ring bearing a plastic-encased photograph of children or a gold credit card. MENDEZ directed the applicants to show the key ring or credit card to SMALLS, FORDHAM and KEYS, in order to signal that the applicant was working illegally with MENDEZ,

it was charged. During one meeting with an undercover officer, MENDEZ allegedly told the officer that MENDEZ brought three people a day to the DMV to get fraudulent identification documents.

The Complaint also alleges similar criminal conduct at the White Plains and Greenwich Street DMV offices. According to the Complaint, KINLOCK, an employee at the White Plains DMV office, processed and approved fraudulent applications for Identification Cards, including a transaction involving an undercover NYPD detective. The undercover detective was allegedly brought to KINLOCK by POLONCO, who gave the undercover detective a unique credit card to use as a signal to KINLOCK. Likewise, EDWARDS, an employee at the Greenwich Street DMV, is alleged to have processed and approved fraudulent applications for Identification Cards and Driver's Licenses, including applications by an undercover detective and a confidential source who were brought to her by POLONCO, ANGEL LEBRON, and LORENZO GIL, a/k/a "Nikko," who acted as brokers for the transaction. On one occasion, an undercover detective was given a small gold sticker in order to signal EDWARDS that she should process the application without verifying the undercover detective's identity, it was charged. In addition, as alleged in the Complaint, EDWARDS provided a written driver's test to the

undercover detective with pencil marks on it that signaled the correct answers on the test.

The Complaint also charges FAISAL MEHMOOD, USMAN SAFDAR and FAISAL IQBAL with participation in the conspiracy. MEHMOOD, SAFDAR and IQBAL are three illegal aliens who are alleged to have purchased multiple fraudulent identification cards, most of which were processed and approved by SMALLS at the 125th Street DMV. According to the Complaint, SAFDAR obtained eight identification cards in different names, MEHMOOD obtained five identification cards in different names, and IQBAL also obtained five identification cards in different names. Some of these applications were made in very close proximity to each other - for example, in a single day in September 2003, SAFDAR allegedly applied for two identification cards in different names. Both of the IDs bear SAFDAR's photograph, but SAFDAR is wearing a different shirt in the two photos, according to the charges. SAFDAR allegedly obtained a third ID in yet another name approximately 10 days later. All of these IDs were approved by SMALLS, it was charged.

The defendants are expected to be presented later today before United States Magistrate Judge DEBRA FREEMAN in Manhattan federal court.

All defendants are charged in the Complaint with conspiring to unlawfully produce, transfer and use New York State Identification Cards, Learner's Permits and Driver's Licenses.

If convicted, each defendant faces a maximum penalty of 15 years in prison and a fine of \$250,000.

Mr. KELLEY praised the efforts of the Federal Bureau of Investigation's Joint Terrorism Task Force, the New York City Police Department, the United States Marshal's Service, the New York State Inspector General's Office, and New York State Department of Motor Vehicles in this case.

Mr. KELLEY said that the investigation is continuing.

Assistant United States Attorneys JONATHAN KOLODNER and ROBIN LINSENMEYER are in charge of the prosecution.

The charges contained in the Complaint are merely accusations, and the defendants are presumed innocent unless and until proven guilty.

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